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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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VOL. XXVI.

APRIL 14, 1911.

No. 15.

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## A NOTE ON SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By Victor G. Heiser, Director of Health, Philippine Islands.

During December, 1910, a person afflicted with smallpox was transferred from San Jose, Antique, to the island of Caluya, which is a small isolated island south of Mindora, the inhabitants of which have heretofore not been systematically vaccinated. An old woman took some of the contents of a pustule from the smallpox case shortly before death and commenced to vaccinate a number of the inhabitants. Smallpox in epidemic form soon resulted. The population of Caluya and near-by islands is about 2,000. Approximately 1,000 cases of smallpox occurred before the facts became known to the outer world. Vaccinators, properly equipped, were immediately sent to Caluya. They vaccinated 800 of the remaining thousand persons. Of these not one contracted smallpox who had a successful vaccination that was two weeks old. The chief quarantine officer visited 10 families, ranging from 5 to 8 in number. In 6 of these every member was stricken with smallpox. A physical examination showed that they had no vaccination marks. In two other families 6 persons were stricken and 2 escaped infection. A physical examination showed that of the 6 stricken members not one had been vaccinated. The 2 remaining members had successful vaccination marks. Upon inquiry it was learned that they had visited Calapan a year previously and were vaccinated while there. In two other families living in the midst of a smallpox stricken village there were no cases of smallpox. A physical examination showed that they had good vaccination scars. Further inquiry elicited the statement that they had but recently come from another island where they had been vaccinated. In one house one person was found with varioloid. Upon inquiry it was learned that he had been vaccinated during childhood.

Net result: Community of 2,000 population; 1,000 unvaccinated persons contract smallpox; 400 die; 800 are protected by vaccination; no cases occur after the incubation period was passed; no deaths occur. The remaining 200 are semicivilized and fled from the vaccinators, and their condition is unknown.

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## SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION IN CUBA.

By P. VILLOLDO, acting assistant surgeon, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Habana.

The history of smallpox in Cuba affords another conclusive proof that it is within the power of any community to eradicate the disease by means of vaccination.